

U. S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #09/920,152

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (Original) A method of recycling carpet tiles in a plurality of division areas, in each of which a plurality of carpet tiles are laid, the method comprising the steps of:
  - removing carpet tiles in a first division area, which are to be first reproduced;
  - laying auxiliary carpet tiles on the first division area from which the carpet tiles have been removed;
  - reproducing the removed carpet tiles;
  - removing carpet tiles in a second division area, which are to be subsequently reproduced; and
  - successively laying the first removed and reproduced carpet tiles on the second division area from which the carpet tiles were subsequently removed.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said reproducing step includes:
  - a washing step of jetting a fluid onto the removed carpet tiles, thereby to perform cleaning for cleaning dirt and stain on the carpet tiles and to perform retexturing, thus forming cleaned and treated carpet tiles; and
  - a recoloring step of recoloring the cleaned and treated carpet tiles with such a design or a color, or both, as to prevent or obscure non-uniformity in color, in accordance with surface conditions of the recolored carpet tiles.
3. (Canceled)

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~~3~~ 4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2 or 3, further comprising a step of decoloring the carpet tiles between the washing step and the recoloring step.

~~4~~ 5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 2, 3, or 4, 2 or 3, further comprising, between the washing step and the recoloring step, a step of coating or treating the reproduced carpet tiles with at least one of a chemical agent or a coloring agent diffusion with prevention effect, which enhances clearness of surfaces of the reproduced carpet tiles.

~~5~~ 6. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 2 to 5 claim 2, further comprising a surface treatment step of treating surfaces of the reproduced carpet tiles with at least one of a stainproof agent for preventing the reproduced carpet tiles from being stained, an antistatic agent for suppressing static electricity and a germicidal-effect agent having a germicidal effect, the surface treatment step being carried out in the recoloring step or one of steps following the recoloring step.

~~6~~ 7. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 2 to 6 claim 2, further comprising a bending step of bending curved reproduced carpet tiles to the original shape, in the washing step or any of the steps following the washing step.

~~7~~ 8. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 2 to 7 claim 2, further comprising a cutting or trimming step of cutting out or trimming edge portions of the reproduced tiles, where piles have fallen, which are left after completion of the above steps.

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9. (Original) A multi-year or multi-cycle renewable carpet system, comprising the steps of:  
installing new carpet tile at a location,  
removing at least a portion of the carpet tile from the location after a period of use,  
renewing the removed carpet tile,  
reinstalling the renewed carpet tile at the location,  
removing at least a portion of the reinstalled renewed carpet tile from the location after another period of use,  
renewing the removed reinstalled previously renewed carpet tile,  
and reinstalling the twice renewed carpet tile.

10. (Original) The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising the steps of:  
removing at least a portion of the reinstalled twice renewed carpet tile after another period of use,  
renewing the removed previously twice renewed carpet tile, and  
reinstalling the thrice-renewed carpet tile.

11. (Original) The system as recited in claim 9, wherein at least about 75% of the carpet tile is renewed and reinstalled at least once.

12. (Original) The system as recited in claim 9, wherein the carpet tiles are at least one of 40"x40", 36"x36", 20"x20", 18"x18", 1m x 1m, and 50cm x 50cm.

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13. (Original) The system as recited in claim ~~9~~, wherein said renewing step includes a washing/reproducing step and a recoloring step.

14. (Original) A carpet renewal and charitable donation system, comprising the steps of:  
having at least a first company or organization agree to donate their used carpet tiles to a charity,  
having a second company or service remove the used carpet tiles,  
renewing the removed tiles and installing the renewed carpet tiles at the charity or at a location selected by the charity.

15. (Original) The system as recited in claim ~~14~~, wherein said renewing step includes the steps of washing and recoloring.

16 – 32 (Canceled)

16. (New) The method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of decoloring the carpet tiles between the washing step and the recoloring step and further comprising a surface treatment step of treating surfaces of the reproduced carpet tiles with at least one of a stainproof agent for preventing the reproduced carpet tiles from being stained, an antistatic agent for suppressing static electricity and a germicidal-effect agent having a germicidal effect, the surface treatment step being carried out in the recoloring step or one of steps following the recoloring step.

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34. (New) The method according to claim 2, further comprising a step of decoloring the carpet tiles between the washing step and the recoloring step and further comprising a surface treatment step of treating surfaces of the reproduced carpet tiles with at least one of a stainproof agent for preventing the reproduced carpet tiles from being stained, an antistatic agent for suppressing static electricity and a germicidal-effect agent having a germicidal effect, the surface treatment step being carried out in the recoloring step or one of steps following the recoloring step, and further comprising, between the washing step and the recoloring step, a step of coating or treating the reproduced carpet tiles with at least one of a chemical agent or a coloring agent diffusion with prevention effect, which enhances clearness of surfaces of the reproduced carpet tiles.

35. (New) The method according to claim 2 further comprising a step of decoloring the carpet tiles between the washing step and the recoloring step and further comprising a bending step of bending curved reproduced carpet tiles to the original shape, in the washing step or any of the steps following the washing step.

36. (New) The method according to claim 2 further comprising a step of decoloring the carpet tiles between the washing step and the recoloring step and further comprising a bending step of bending curved reproduced carpet tiles to the original shape, in the washing step or any of the steps following the washing step and further comprising, between the washing step and the recoloring step, a step of coating or treating the reproduced carpet tiles with at least one of a chemical agent or a coloring agent diffusion with prevention effect, which enhances clearness of

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surfaces of the reproduced carpet tiles.

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37. (New) The method according to claim 2 further comprising a step of decoloring the carpet tiles between the washing step and the recoloring step and further comprising a bending step of bending curved reproduced carpet tiles to the original shape, in the washing step or any of the steps following the washing step and further comprising a surface treatment step of treating surfaces of the reproduced carpet tiles with at least one of a stainproof agent for preventing the reproduced carpet tiles from being stained, an antistatic agent for suppressing static electricity and a germicidal-effect agent having a germicidal effect, the surface treatment step being carried out in the recoloring step or one of steps following the recoloring step.

*GJ*